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UNCLAS DJIBOUTI 001373

SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: REPORT OF CONDEMNATION OF DJIBOUTI IN PORTO-ALLEGRE
(BRAZIL) MEETING

11. (U) Alleged violations of labor rights have come to the forefront of opposition party attentions after the Fourth Congress of International Education held in Porto-Allegre, Brazil 16-26 July, 2004. In its first few issues back from their summer holiday, La Realite, the opposition journal published by the Republican Alliance for Democracy (ARD), reported that the Porto-Allegre Congress on Education in global progress condemned Djibouti's union liberties and that a six point resolution was passed which demanded an end to alleged violations of labor rights there. End summary.

12. (U) The Congress of International Education, an international education union from 161 countries, which represents 315 organizations in which 26 million persons are affiliated. Two Djibouti education syndicates were represented in the fourth Congress: First Degree Syndicate (SEP) and Second Degree Syndicate (SYNESED). SEP and SYNESED are both affiliated with the Union of Djibouti Workers (UDT). Souleiman Ahmed Mohamed, ex-General Secretary of SYNESED and current Deputy General Secretary of UDT attended the congress. According to Ahmed, Djibouti was condemned for blocking development of syndicate liberties and violations of ILO Conventions. The Congress voted unanimously to approve a six-point resolution, according to the La Realite report. It reportedly required the Government of Djibouti to proceed unconditionally with the professional reintegration of all those who were sanctioned because of their union activities. The congress asked Djibouti to put an end to the obstacles to union liberties, to recognize and respect their freedom and independence as they are affiliated with international organizations like the International Confederation of Free Syndicates (CISL) and the International Education Congress. The final requirement was that Djibouti should open negotiations with unions and the chaotic situation has to come to an end.

13. (U) Post would appreciate any information Embassy Brasilia can provide on this conference and any resolutions passed concerning Djibouti.